



**The Secretary for Health Services**

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
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PAUL E. PATTON  
GOVERNOR

MARCIA R. MURPHY  
SECRETARY

January 13, 2003

Home Health Provider Letter # A-88

Dear Home Health Provider:

This letter is to clarify the Department for Medicaid Services (DMS) policy regarding Medical Social Services as related to the Home Health Program. An overview of this policy may be found on page 4.18 and 4.19 of the Home Health Services manual, transmittal # 19.

Medical Social Services are designed to assist the individual with the social and emotional concerns related to the medical condition or illness. This may include counseling with the individual, family or agency staff to better understand the medically related social needs of the individual. Additionally, this may include accessing resources in the community that may be beneficial to the individual or family in dealing with the medical condition or illness. For example, a seminar at the local hospital on how to cook for the diabetic; or a support group for individuals or family members of an individual who has lost a limb. The important criteria to remember, for Medical Social Services to be covered, are that the activities being performed or the services being coordinated must be related to the medical condition of the home health recipient.

Medical Social Services should not be utilized to assess the living environment or safety of the individual. Should your agency staff have reason to believe an individual's safety is jeopardized, they need to call the Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) abuse hotline telephone number at 1-800-752-6200. Additionally, if the

*"...promoting and safeguarding the health and wellness of all Kentuckians."*



EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER M/F/D

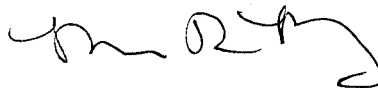
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individual needs assistance with utilities and food, refer the individual or family to the local Community Action Council or other community agency. The toll-free telephone number to the Kentucky Community Action Agency is 1-800-456-3452.

Should there be questions regarding this letter or home health policy, please direct them to Craig Cooper. Mr. Cooper may be reached at (502) 564-5560.

The Department for Medicaid Services appreciates the continuing cooperation from all home health providers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'm R Morgan', written over a horizontal line.

Marcia R. Morgan  
Secretary

MRM/cc/tb